Free gas reserve in the Oil Fields of Assam

102. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of free gas reserve in the fields of Assam indicating location, quantity, exploration status and upto date percentage utility of each reserve;

(b) the details of investment plan for exploration both in Government and private sector and target fixed;

(c) the break up of production and utilisation of associated and free gas indicating the percentage consumed by each major consumer;

(d) the perspective plan for productivity and supply to various gas based industries including Assam Gas Cracker project, Kathalguri and Anguri power projects; and

(e) the present value and quantum of gas being flared annually?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) as on 1.4.99 has established 3.057 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM) of free gas in its fields in Assam, of which 1.888 BCM are in Lakwa-Lakhmani, Geleki, Rudrasagar, Amguri, Borholla and Khoraghat fields of Upper Assam and 1.169 BCM are in Adamtila, Banaskandi and Bhubandar fields of Cachar area. The total recoverable reserves of free gas as on 1.4.99 of Oil India Ltd. (OIL) is of the order of 35 BCM in its fields of which 20.494 BCM is in the fields of Jorajan-Hapjan. The balance is in the other fields namely Nahorkatiya, Moran, Kusijan, Greater Tengakhat and adjoining areas, in Assam. ONGC as on 1.4.99 has produced a total of 0.194 BCM of free gas from 7 fields namely Lakwa-Lakhmani, Geleki, Rudrasagar, Amguri, Borholla, Adamtila and Banaskandi which amount to about 6.3% of ultimate reserves. Oil India has produced about 1.4 BCM of gas which is about 4% of its total recoverable reserves. Exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbon is an on-going process.

(b) The total plan outlay of ONGC and OIL for exploratory

work in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh for the year 1999-2000 is Rs. 464 crores. As far as Private/Joint Venture sector is concerned, contracts have been signed for three exploration blocks in the State of Assam (namely: AAP-ON-94/1, CR-ON-90/1 and AA-ON-07). Investment in two of these blocks based on Production Sharing Contract work programme in all three phases has been finalised and is estimated to be around Rs. 68 crores.

(c) During the period April-December, 1999 the production of associated and free gas by ONGC and OIL in Assam was 1563.53 Million Standard Cubic Metre (MMSCM). Details of average consumption by the consumer of Assam is as below:

(MMSCMD)

Sl. No.	Name of existing consumers	Average Consumption
1.	Hindustan Fertilisers & Chemicals Ltd.	0.643
2.	ASEB, Namrup	0.454
3.	APL, Namrup	0.086
4.	IOC, Digboi	0.173
5.	NEEPCO, Kathalguri	1.055
6.	Tea Gardens — others	0.392
7.	ASEB, Mailbella	0.463
8.	HFCL, Namrup	0.035
9.	ASEB, Geleky	0.000
10.	Sonari Tea Gas Grid	0.053
11.	Other Tea Estates	0.045
12.	GAIL LPG Plant, Lakwa	0.115
	TOTAL :	3.514

The present demand of existing consumers is being fully met except in case of Gas Authority of India Limited's LPG plant at Lakwa.

(d) All possible steps are taken by ONGC and OIL to optimise productivitiy i.e. efficiency of production of oil and natural gas.

917RS F—10-A

Government has agreed to supply adequate gas to the Assam Gas Cracker Project required to produce 2 lakh tonnes per annum of ethylene. Gas is already being supplied to the power project of North Eastern Electric Power Company (NEEPCO) at Kathalguri. While gas is available for supply to power plant of ASEB at Kathalguri, the ASEB has stopped drawing the gas from 1996 onwards. Govt. has also agreed to allocate 0.50 MMSCMD of gas to the Amguri power project from the overall allocation of ASEB which is not being fully utilised.

(e) The quantity of gas being flared in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh is of the order of 0.6 MMSCM/Day valued approximately at Rs. 5.86 lakhs.

Modernisation of Guwahati Refinery

103. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 379 given in the Rajya Sabha dated 2nd December, 1999 and state:

(a) whether Guwahati Refinery was not included in the proposed modernisation of Indian Oil Corporation refineries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the details of the modernisation plan indicating list of proposals, estimated outlays and Commission schedule projectors;

(d) the sanction and implementation status of capacity augmentation (0.44 MMTPA), Boilers (2×85 MT/H), GT (20 MW), paraffin Wax, Needle Coke production and N-paraffin distillation facility (150 SIV) projects proposed earlier for Guwahati Refinery; and

(e) the steps initiated to make the refinery economically viable in the global competitive environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNU-